

TRIBUTE TO JIM O'BRIEN

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a wonderful neighbor and friend, Jim O'Brien, who passed away over the weekend after a brave battle with cancer.

For many years, Jim and his wife Barb lived in Taylorville, always bringing smiles to the faces in town. My daughter, Toryn, loved the pink house he and Barb lived in with their Yorkie, Maggie.

What I will remember most about Jim is his kindness and generosity. Driven by faith, family, and community, Jim spent nearly all of his time serving others. He was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Taylorville, coached Little League, delivered Meals on Wheels, and served as an after-school mentor for children. When Taylorville opened its SHADOW home, a residential faith-based program for women and children, Jim dedicated much of his time making the home a comfortable place for those in need.

In his free time, Jim served as the president of the park district board and frequently attended high school basketball and football games, cheering on the Tornadoes whenever he could.

There is no doubt that Jim made Taylorville a wonderful place to call home. His love for the community and his service to others will always be remembered. He will be greatly missed by me, my family, and by all those who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Barb, and their family.

HONORING THE NOMINEES FOR
KANE COUNTY CHIEFS OF POLICE
ASSOCIATION'S 2015 LOUIS
SPUHLER OFFICER OF THE YEAR
FOR KANE COUNTY AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nominees for the 2015 Kane County Chiefs of Police Association's Louis Spuhler Officer of the Year for Kane County Award.

The award, presented by the Batavia Moose Lodge Number 682 and the Kane County Chiefs of Police Association, recognizes the outstanding achievements of police officers who protect our community. The men and women who wear the badge provide our families with security while putting their own lives on the line and deserve our admiration and thanks.

I would like to congratulate the winner of the 2015 Louis Spuhler Officer of the Year for Kane County, Officer Dean M. Tucker, as well as his fellow nominees: Sergeant Elizabeth Palko, Lieutenant Brian McCarty, Lieutenant Anthony Gorski, Officer Ronald F. McNeff, Sergeant Eric Blowers, Officer Erika Stover, Officer Justin Howe, Officer Chris Potthoff, Officer Mark Skorup, Trooper Gregory Melzer, and Detective Andrew Houghton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the nominees for the 2015 Louis Spuhler Officer of the Year for Kane County Award and thanking them for their continued dedication to the safety and security of our community.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY AND BILL HARPER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dorothy and Bill Harper of Peru, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Bill and Dorothy's lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more memories. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREGORY
STEVENS, A DISTINGUISHED
MEMBER OF THE GARLAND POLICE
DEPARTMENT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished member of the Garland Police Department, Officer Gregory Stevens, for receiving the Medal of Valor at the White House. On May 3, 2015, two gunmen opened fire at an event in Garland with the sole intent of harming and taking the lives of every single person inside. Luckily, Officer Stevens was standing guard that night. As the shooters opened fire on the auditorium, Officer Stevens swiftly acted to protect the people of Garland from what could have been a devastating situation. His actions not only saved countless innocent lives, they also sent a clear message that Texans will not stand down in the face of terror.

I am extremely proud to have such exceptional men and women who faithfully serve and protect our communities. Officer Stevens, thank you for your selfless service and your unwavering commitment to protect the wonderful people of North Texas. God Bless our Police Officers, God Bless Texas, and God Bless America.

HONORING MICHAEL P. REESE

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor Michael P. Reese for his

extraordinary contributions to the community of El Paso and honorable service to our nation. Mr. Reese stands apart for his distinguished service as a teacher in the El Paso community and soldier for the United States Army.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1979, Michael P. Reese has dedicated both his life and career to the service of others. After graduating from the Texas Lutheran University in 2001, Mr. Reese worked as a counselor to troubled youth at a therapeutic wilderness camp in Lockhart, Texas. In 2003, he joined the United States Army, where he served honorably through 2005. During his service, Mr. Reese was stationed at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas and deployed to Iraq from 2004 to 2005 with the First Brigade Combat Team of the First Cavalry Division. While deployed, Mr. Reese earned the Combat Medical Badge for satisfactorily performing medical duties while his unit was engaged in ground combat.

After completing his term of enlistment, Michael Reese moved to El Paso when he was accepted into the University of Texas at El Paso's History Graduate Program. Since graduating in 2009, Mr. Reese has worked as a high school teacher in El Paso and earned several awards for his refusal to dumb down challenging issues and ability to bring out the best in his students, including Campus Teacher of the Year at Andress High School. Michael P. Reese's creative use of technology to inspire his students and encourage discussion, exemplifies the vision required to educate the youth of El Paso in the 21st century. This year, the El Paso Independent School District named Mr. Reese Secondary Teacher of the Year for his work as a Social Studies and Broadcast Journalism teacher at El Paso High School.

Michael P. Reese's commitment to helping others is an inspiration to the El Paso community. I am honored to recognize him for his service to our country both in the military and classroom.

HONORING ROMAN MAZUR ON HIS
COMPANY'S ANNUAL DANCE FESTIVAL

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Roman Mazur on bringing his dance company's annual dance festival, this year entitled, "Melodies from My Grandmother's Chest" to the Theatre of Buffalo Grove Community Art Center on the weekend of May 28th. I'm excited to convey my support for a vibrant cultural event hosted in the center of my district.

The tenth congressional district is a hub of cultural diversity, and events like Mr. Mazur's Dance Festival encapsulate this. The Festival highlights the hard work, creative endurance, and dedication of veteran dancers as they bring the rich tradition of 1930s and 40s dancing and music to the audience.

It is truly my pleasure to commend Mr. Mazur on many years of outstanding work with the Mazur Dance School. I congratulate him and his company on the Festival, and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.